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USCINCENT//CCPA, USCENTCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON MIDDLE EAST

Summary

-- Lead story in all papers today, August 21, focuses on Prime Minister Ali Abu Ragheb's visit to Syria and his talks with the Syrian President regarding regional and bilateral issues. Another major story highlights Israel's assassination of the brother of Ahmad Saadat, a leader of the Palestine Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) currently in Palestinian custody. All papers report, without comment, the end of the Iraqi embassy hostage situation in Germany.

Editorial Commentary

-- "An enemy does not become a brother"

Daily columnist Musa Hawamdeh writes on the op-ed page center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustour (08/21): "Had we felt even for one moment that the Israelis really want peace and that a historical reconciliation restoring freedom and land to the Palestinians is the solution, we would have called for giving peace a chance and we would have urged everyone to stop the resistance. But the number of those [Israelis] who believe in peace is minute. There is no point in looking for ways to convince the Israelis of peace or to give compromises in order to prove to them that the Palestinians want peace. There is no other way for the Palestinians but to continue their resistance in the absence of international pressures on the enemy. Anything being said or done that does not ultimately support the resistance makes a reward for the occupation and the occupiers."
GNEHM